



**Department of Energy**

Carlsbad Field Office  
P. O. Box 3090  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88221

**JUN 08 2004**



ENTERED



Mr. Clint Marshall  
Ground Water Pollution Prevention Section  
New Mexico Environment Department  
P.O. Box 26110  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Subject: Follow-Up Report Required By 20.6.2.1203 (3) NMAC And 15 Day Corrective Action  
Report Required by 20.6.2.1203 (6) NMAC for the June 2 and 3, 2004 Domestic Sewage  
Release at WIPP

Dear Mr. Marshall:

On June 3, 2004, the Department of Energy provided verbal notification of a release of domestic sewage from a broken sewer line at the WIPP Site. The purpose of this letter is to provide the seven-day follow-up report required by 20.6.2.1203 (3) NMAC and the 15-day corrective action report required by 20.6.2.1203 (6) NMAC.

The release was discovered at approximately 6:30 a.m. on June 3, 2004. Contractors responsible for grading and lining Evaporation Pond A on the southwest side of the facility discovered the leak. The sewer line had apparently been damaged on the afternoon of June 2, 2004 by heavy equipment that had been operating in the area supporting construction activities. No visible sign of leaking sewage was apparent until the following morning. The release posed no significant threat to the environment and every precaution was taken to protect construction personnel from exposure to raw sewage. All construction personnel involved in the repair of the sewer line were provided Hepatitis B and Tetanus shots. Additionally, response personnel wore Ty-Vek<sup>®</sup> coveralls, rubber boots and gloves. Calcium hypochlorite was added to the spill area as a disinfectant in accordance with your recommended corrective action.

The following information is provided as required by 20.6.2.1203 (3) and (6) NMAC:

1. Name, address, and telephone number of the person or persons in charge of the facility, as well as the owner and/or Operator of the facility:

|                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Facility Owner:                   | United States Department of Energy |
| Person in Charge of the Facility: | R. P. Detwiler, Acting Manager     |
|                                   | Carlsbad Field Office              |
| Address:                          | P.O. Box 3090                      |
|                                   | Carlsbad, NM 88221                 |
| Phone Number:                     | 505-234-7300                       |
| Facility Operator                 | United States Department of Energy |
| Responsible Individual:           | George Basabilvazo                 |
| Address:                          | P.O. Box 3090                      |
|                                   | Carlsbad, NM 88221                 |
| Phone Number:                     | 505-234-8103                       |



2. Name and address of the Facility:

Waste Isolation Pilot Plant  
26 miles E-SE of Carlsbad, NM.

3. Date, time and location of the discharge:

Afternoon of June 2, 2004 through 3:50 pm June 3, 2004 (approximately 24-hours)

4. The estimated volume of the discharge:

A conservative estimate of the volume of sewage released is 300 gallons based on a visual observation of the pooled sewage. The release occurred within the excavation of a newly constructed pond with highly compacted soil that was being prepared for the installation of a synthetic liner.

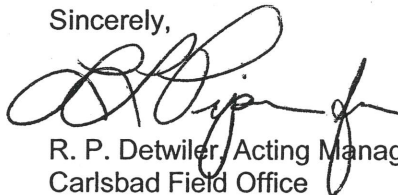
Based on the totalizing sewage effluent flow meter an average of 148 gallons per hour was discharged over the 24-hour period that sewage was released. This equates to 3,562 gallons for the duration of the discharge. The majority of this water was not released to the environment but continued to flow through the portion of the sewer line that remained intact.

5. Any actions taken to mitigate immediate damage from the discharge:

Upon discovery of the release, notifications were made and plans prepared for the repairs. The contractor responsible for the repairs had 8-inch pipe, fittings, and safety equipment delivered from Carlsbad, NM. Personnel began excavating the dirt covering the pipe. The affected pipe ran a length of 81 feet. One hundred feet of pipe was excavated to ensure all damaged pipe was replaced. Sandbags were placed in the upstream manhole to prevent the release of solids and minimize the sewage released while the new pipe was installed. By 3:50 p.m. on June 3, 2004, the new pipe was connected. Calcium hypochlorite was placed on the contaminated back-filled soil after repairs were complete.

Please advise us if you have any questions, or require any additional information. Please direct any inquiries to Mr. H. L. Plum, of my staff at (505) 234-7462.

Sincerely,



R. P. Detwiler, Acting Manager  
Carlsbad Field Office

cc:

H. Johnson, CBFO  
L. Piper, CBFO  
H. Plum, CBFO  
C. Zvonar, CBFO  
S. Martin, NMED  
J. Kieling, NMED  
S. Colt, CBFO  
V. Waldram, CBFO

Mr. Clint Marshall

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bcc:

D. T. Bignell, WRES

G. J. Johnson, WTS

R. F. Kehrman, WRES

R. D. Reeves, WRES

S. D. Warren, WTS